

# Dantrolene

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**Dantrolene** (also called Dantrium or Revonto) is a skeletal muscle relaxant. It is often used to treat increased muscle tone (**hypertonia**) and spasticity in children with conditions like cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, or spinal cord damage. It is given orally (by mouth).

Dantrolene does not cure these problems, but it can help reduce the symptoms and severity of the condition. It relaxes muscles that are stiff and tight, can help improve flexibility, and can decrease cramping and discomfort caused by tight muscles.

## Dosage forms:

- Oral capsules come in 25mg, 50mg, and 100mg.
- There is no liquid formulation, but some pharmacies may be able to compound the medication to an oral suspension.

## Common side effects:

- Sleepiness
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Change in urination (urinating more often, losing bladder control, or difficulty urinating)
- Change in liver function
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea
- Breakthrough seizures or an increase in seizures in some children with epilepsy

## Signs of an allergic reaction:

- A rash that is itchy, red, and swollen; may be blistered and peeling
- Tightness in the chest or throat
- Trouble breathing or talking
- Unusual hoarseness
- Swollen mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat

Call your child's physician if you think that your child is having a rash or an allergic reaction because of the medicine. *Seek emergency medical attention **immediately** if your child is having any difficulty breathing.*

## Severe side effects:

- Severe dizziness
- Not being able to eat
- Feeling very tired or weak
- Dark urine
- Yellowing of the skin or white parts of the eyes

Call your child's physician immediately if you are concerned about any of these side effects.

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## Precautions:

- Tell your child's provider about any severe heart, lung, or liver conditions.
- *Blood work must be done routinely to monitor liver function.*

## Drug interactions:

- Do not use with medications that affect the heart, such as calcium channel blockers.
- Use with caution with other medications and substances that suppress the central nervous system, including alcohol, prescription pain medications, or other muscle relaxants and sedatives.
- Ask your child's physician or pharmacist if you are concerned about potential medication interactions.

Please be aware that all medications may cause side effects. Many people have no side effects or only minor side effects on this medicine. Notify your child's provider if any of these side effects bother your child or do not go away.

**If severe side effects or symptoms of an allergic reaction occur, call your child's provider right away or seek emergency medical attention.**

## Resources and References:

<https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a682576.html>

<https://www.cerebralpalsy.org/about-cerebral-palsy/treatment/medication>

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/spasticity>